

LSICLG17

Demonstrate an understanding of the social and political context of counselling



Overview

This unit requires that you demonstrate an understanding of mental health and social, political, ability and disability and cross-cultural perspectives. You are required to explore and recognise the power components of cultural difference and the impact that your own values and ethos can have on the client. You are required to access information and support that can inform your practice about clients' cultural needs. You are also required to critically appraise the role and function of counselling in society and government policy with regards to mental health.

There are two elements to this unit

1. Understand the cultural context of service provision
2. Identify and manage the political context of service provision

This unit is relevant to those working in the following counselling contexts

1. Institutions
2. Statutory Services
3. VCS (Voluntary Community Sector Services)
4. Social Enterprises
5. Individual Practice
6. Commercial Enterprises

All units within the suite of National Occupational Standards for Counselling are not specific to any theoretical model.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Understand the cultural context of service provision

- P1 demonstrate an understanding of mental health and social, political, ability and disability, and cross-cultural perspectives.
- P2 critically appraise the sociology of health and illness
- P3 identify your own cultural position and values
- P4 recognise the power components of cultural difference and the impact your values and ethos can have on the client
- P5 explore sensitively and respectfully with clients their culture and associated values
- P6 explore with clients how they view and understand their relationship to other cultures and values
- P7 support client's values and reflect on how your therapeutic framework might challenge them
- P8 explore and respect personal goals and self-identity and its impact on the counselling process
- P9 demonstrate an understanding of ways in which cultural and religious practices may be confused with mental ill health
- P10 demonstrate an understanding of ways in which current social issues may impact on psychological well-being
- P11 demonstrate an understanding of the impact of inherited attitudes towards such things as class, disability, mental health and race
- P12 access information and support that can inform your practice about clients' cultural needs
- P13 recognise the social, cultural or political barriers to access to counselling services and promote accessibility
- P14 identify and work with available resources such as translators

Identify and manage the political context of service provision

You must be able to:

- P15 critically appraise the role and function of counselling in society
- P16 critically appraise Government policy with respect to mental health
- P17 identify and respond to international, national, regional and local developments with respect to mental health
- P18 broadly understand service user involvement in service provision where appropriate
- P19 encourage user involvement in service provision where appropriate
- P20 critically appraise different systems of social organisation and consequent power dynamics

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Understand the cultural context of service provision

- K1 the nature of culture and methods of analysis
- K2 the sociology of health and illness
- K3 the ways in which all cultures are arenas in which values are contested as well as shared
- K4 the meaning of culture in an organisational context
- K5 awareness of the impact of discrimination and prejudice on mental health
- K6 national, local, professional, and organisational requirements relating to diversity, discrimination, health and safety, security, confidentiality, and data protection
- K7 psychological and sociological theories of individualism and collectivism
- K8 the importance of a non-discriminatory approach to professional and therapeutic relationships
- K9 the impact of social and economic circumstances on health and well-being
- K10 the dynamics of the culture of the organisation in which you are employed
- K11 main debates about identity and diversity between and within cultures
- K12 aspects of different cultures and subcultures including lifestyle, 'race', colour, gender, sexuality and age
- K13 methods of accessing information and support that can inform your practice about clients' cultural needs
- K14 how to work with clients who have experienced discrimination, prejudice or trauma due to their culture or difference
- K15 all relevant legislation, codes of practice, guidelines and ethical requirements relevant to counselling

Identify and manage the political context of service provision

You need to know and understand:

- K16 systems of social organisation and consequent power dynamics
- K17 relevant aspects of social psychology
- K18 relevant aspects of social and political theories and methods of analysis
- K19 the way in which the social and political context of the client impacts on his or her mental health and well-being
- K20 relevant national politics in relation to service provision of mental health services
- K21 current social policy that directly or indirectly influences the provision of therapy
- K22 relevant aspects of the sociology of professions
- K23 relevant aspects of critical social theory
- K24 relevant aspects of epidemiology of mental health difficulties

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- K25 the importance of working with diversity in professional and therapeutic relationships
- K26 the internal politics of the organisation in which you are employed
- K27 awareness of the impact of discrimination and prejudice on mental health
- K28 the role and function of service users in the delivery, monitoring and evaluation of services
- K29 mental health service provision at local, regional and national level

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Developed by LSIS

Version number 1

Date approved September 2007

Indicative review date September 2009

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation ENTO

Original URN CLG17 v4

Relevant occupations Health, Public Services and Care; Health and Social Care; Child Development and Well Being; Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations; Education and training; Preparation for life and work; Health and Social Services Officers; Health Associate Professionals; Therapists; Social Welfare Associate Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services; Childcare and Related Personal Services

Suite Counselling National Occupational Standards v4

Key words understanding, social, political, counselling
